



Montana State Employer's Council  
Executive Board Meeting  
4/6/06  
Helena, MT

Present: Carolyn DeYoung, Barb Kain, Patti Guiberson, Karen Dellwo, Cal Boyle, Patty Nordlund, Ingrid Childress, Gary Warren & Deb Buxbaum

Call to Order:

Chairperson, Carolyn DeYoung opened the meeting with a review of the agenda, and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Fall Board meeting held in September, 2005. The motion was made and seconded, and passed. There was no correspondence to be discussed.

Reports & Updates:

Treasurer, Sylvia Murray was unable to attend the meeting, however she had provided Carolyn with the most recent bank statement, showing a balance of \$9,287.69 in total. \$156.16 in the free Small Business Checking account, \$5,644.41 in the Basic Business Savings Account, and \$3,487.12 in a Certificate of Deposit. The report was accepted, through motion, second and vote. Sylvia also enclosed a pad of checks to the checking account, in the event that Carolyn needed to write a check from the account as one of the signatures. Carolyn asked Deb Buxbaum, current Coordinator for the group, to hold on to the checkbook for future needs. The transition to US Bank has been made.

Ingrid Childress, Administrator of the Workforce Services Division, gave an update on the WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) grant, by which Montana received a grant in the amount of \$15 million dollars over a course of 3 years. Montana was one of 14 awardees. The grant is for a 32 county area in central and eastern Montana, including six of the Reservation areas. Part of the initiative is to convert some of the cash crops currently being grown to oil crops that can have the oilseeds processed and refined in newly created facilities for biolubricant production. For those interested in seeing the WIRED package, it is available on the following link:

<http://dli.mt.gov/pub/wired022006.pdf>

Board members were given an update on the Leadership Development Program, which has its pilot class scheduled for June 2006. The program is designed to assist in the succession planning of the Workforce Services Division. Participation in the program is not a guarantee of a leadership position in the future, nor does it, at this time, count for education or experience in the application process. MSEC members were encouraged to give feedback on external HR situations they have encountered within their organizations, for the purposes of example scenarios for the class. Barb suggested we contact Carol Seaman from DPHHS, who was involved with their Management Intern Program.

Ingrid also updated that our Employment Security Account (ESA) is solvent. Additionally, the Employment Relations Division (ERD) of the Department of Labor is currently conducting a study regarding worker's compensation. Comparatively, Montana's work comp rates exceed the norm, so a study to see why is underway. A question was asked regarding what the Employment Relations Division's function is with regard to worker's comp, and the State Fund. It was determined Jerry Keck, Administrator of ERD, would be most appropriate to answer that question, and a request to have him create a quick informational sheet would be made. It is noted this may be a topic of interest for a future meeting.

Jim Lambert with the Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG) program gave a brief update on all that's going on. Their Annual Career Development Conference is scheduled for the first week of May, and Jim extended an invitation to the Board to become a part of the conference by volunteering to judge various events. They are now fully staffed, with the addition of Kathy and Sandra, who come to the program highly qualified. They are looking at using some of their vacancy savings to put out into the field. In addition, they are looking at ways to expand into the middle school areas. Jim pointed out that contrary to some beliefs, JMG is not just for those students who are on the verge of dropping out of school. One of their recent students was a 4.0 student, but had no direction, and no idea of what she wanted to do with her life. She said JMG was the best thing that ever happened to her. JMG is on the move and working hard to make a difference in our young adults lives.

Deb Buxbaum is currently the temporary MSEC Coordinator. The position is being posted, and there will hopefully be a permanent hire in place sometime in June. Deb gave an update on the upcoming JSEC/Managers meeting in Fairmont, scheduled for May 15-17, and passed out the agenda that has been planned.

Deb also requested feedback on ideas for a local JSEC that is trying to revitalize and become more active. Suggestions included having JSEC and Chamber members make a personal invitation to others to attend a meeting with them. Also suggested was an Open House; with speakers giving information on topics of interest in short (10-15 min) presentations. Suggested having treats, door prizes, and of course, inviting everyone to bring someone with them. Stressed the importance of making new members, as well as inactive members to feel welcome in attending the meetings.

#### Old Business:

The committee stated their continuing support to provide a \$200 prize to be drawn from the JSECs who have a JSEC member attending all or part of the meeting. The member can be the Chair, another officer, or a member designated as the local JSEC's representative. It cannot be a Job Service staff member (JSEC Coordinator) or management staff.

The committee asked that Ingrid send a reminder to the local office management staff, encouraging them to consider nominating their local JSEC for an award. In addition, the committee agreed they would again be giving out the Fred Unmack Scholarship. In order to be eligible, the individual must be the winner of the local JSEC's scholarship competition, and be forwarded up to the MSEC for consideration. Deb will send out a notice to the field, and a committee to review the nominations will be formed of neutral parties once the nominations have been submitted.

New Business:

Patty Nordlund passed out the results of surveys conducted in the Billings area, regarding business input regarding the use of workforce training dollars. The surveys were conducted on employers with 14 or more employees, as well as a separate sampling of those employers with 10 or less employees. The results of the survey will be put into an executive summary and shared with Commissioner of Labor, Keith Kelly, per his request. Patty suggested that other areas of the state might want to do the same kind of survey, asking the same questions, to compare the results.

The committee agreed with the draft agenda for the Annual Business meeting to be held on the second day of the JSEC/Managers meeting. The Fall Board meeting is being scheduled for all day on Thursday, October 5, 2006 in Helena. The meeting will be held in the Lewis Room, which is in the basement of the Walt Sullivan Building.

The topic of the 2006-2007 Executive Board candidates was tabled until the spring meeting.

Possible sites for the 2007 joint meeting were discussed. Discussion regarding whether the meeting should be held on the eastern side of the state, since this year's meeting is in the west. Billings was mentioned as a possibility. As a follow-up to this topic, Deb checked the Fall 2005 minutes to see if there was mention of a possible site for the 2007, and there was not.

Carolyn called the meeting to a close, having completed the business scheduled for the day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Buxbaum